

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-5 and 7-18 as set forth below.

1. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric comprising
a paper side layer having a paper side surface,
a machine side layer having a bottom wear side surface, and
a plurality of pairs of first and second intrinsic, interchanging weft yarns at least
interweaving with the paper side layer,
~~wherein: the~~wherein the paper side layer and the machine side layer each comprise warp
yarns and non-interchanging weft yarns woven together; said paper side layer and said machine side
layer each having a predetermined repeat of the weave pattern in the cross-machine direction; at
least one of said plurality of pairs of first and second intrinsic, interchanging weft yarns having at
least four segments in the paper side layer within each repeat of the weave pattern, said segments
providing an unbroken weft path in the paper side surface, with each succeeding segment being
separated in the paper side surface of the paper side layer by at least one paper side layer
transitional warp yarn.
2. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to claim 1, wherein at least one
~~segment of said four segments~~ has a different length from the ~~other~~remaining segments.
3. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, wherein the yarns of said intrinsic, interchanging weft pairs are ~~both~~one of binder
wefts, ~~or~~ top wefts ~~or~~and only one of such interchanging yarns is one of a binder ~~or~~and a top weft.
4. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, wherein the paper side layer ~~comprise~~further comprises warp yarns, interchanging
weft yarn pairs and non- interchanging weft yarns woven together.

5. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein said interchanging intrinsic weft yarn pairs are disposed between adjacent pairs of paper side weft yarns.
6. (Original) A composite forming fabric according to claim 3, wherein the paper side layer only comprise warp yarns and interchanging weft yarn pairs woven together.
7. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein each of said first and second intrinsic, interchanging weft binder yarns of each pair of yarns having at least four segments in the paper side layer within each repeat of the weave pattern binds to at least one warp yarn in the machine side layer vertically underlying one of said segments.
8. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein at least one of the paper side segment sub-layers has no interlacing between either member of said intrinsic interchanging weft binder pair and the machine side warp yarns.
9. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein at least two or all of said at least four segments per weave repeat have underlying sub-surface binder yarn and wear side warp yarn interlacing.
10. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein per weave repeat said pairs of intrinsic, interchanging weft binder yarns bind to a single wear side warp yarn in regions underlying two segments.
11. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the weave repeat includes two adjacent segments that are free of any underlying, bound wear side warp yarns.

12. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim 1, wherein all of said pairs of intrinsic, interchanging weft binder yarns having at least four segments in the paper side layer within each repeat of the weave pattern.
13. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the second member of said pair of intrinsic interchanging binder yarns per weave repeat has less segment underlying sub-surface binder yarn and wear side warp yarn interlacing as the first member of said pair of intrinsic interchanging binder yarns.
14. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the second member of said pair of intrinsic interchanging pair per weave repeat binds under less segments with wear side warp yarns than the first member of said pair.
15. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim 1, wherein ~~some~~ at least one intrinsic interchanging weft yarn pair have a different number of segments within each weave repeat.
16. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of said binders of said pair of interchanging intrinsic pair floats between the paper side and machine side warp yarns in the region of a segment created by the other binder of said pair.
17. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the fabric has a weave repeat comprising at least 24 warp yarns ~~or more~~.
18. (Currently amended) A composite forming fabric according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the fabric has a paper side to machine side warp yarn ~~ratio of 1:1.3:2.2:~~ ratio of 1:1.3:2.2:1 or higher.